



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

Water Quality Board
Paula Doughty, *Chair*
Steven P. Simpson, *Vice Chair*
Myron E. Bateman
Clyde L. Bunker
Merritt K. Frey
Darrell H. Mensel
Leland J. Myers
Neal L. Peacock
Gregory L. Rowley
Amanda Smith
Daniel C. Snarr
Jeffery L. Tucker
Walter L. Baker
Executive Secretary

Utah Water Quality Board Meeting DEQ Building Board Room #1015 195 North 1950 West Salt Lake City, Utah 84116 **October 24, 2012**

Work Meeting Begins @ 8:30 a.m.

Overview of Economic Benefit Results..... Mary Jo Realy, CH2M Hill, Paul Jakus, USU,
..... & Nick von Stackelberg, DWQ

Board Meeting Begins @ 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

- A. **Water Quality Board Meeting – Roll Call**
- B. (Tab 1) **Approval of Minutes for September 26, 2012**
- C. **Executive Secretary's Report** Walt Baker
- D. (Tab 2) **Funding Requests:**
 - 1. Financial Status Report Emily Canton
 - 2. Green River request to convert Planning Advance to a Grant John Cook
- E. **In The Matter of U.S. Oil Sands PR Spring Tar Sands Project Ground Water Discharge Permit-By-Rule, No. WQ PR-11-001:**
 - 1. Opening Comments..... Paula Doughty
 - 2. Oral Arguments on the ALJ's Recommended Order
 - Paul M. McConkie representing Division of Water Quality
 - Charles R. Dubuc representing Living Rivers
 - Christopher R. Hogle representing U.S. Oil Sands
- F. (Tab 3) **Other Business:**

Next Meeting – December 6, 2012
DEQ Building Board Room #1015
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

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195 North 1950 West • Salt Lake City, UT
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 144870 • Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870
Telephone (801) 536-4300 • Fax (801) 536-4301 • T.D.D. (801) 536-4414

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FUNDING REQUEST

OTHER BUSINESS



State of Utah

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MINUTES

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD

DEQ Building Board Room #1015

195 North 1950 West

Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Myron Bateman	Clyde Bunker	Paula Doughty
Greg Rowley	Amanda Smith	Darrell Mensel
Steven Simpson	Dan Snarr	Merritt Frey
Leland Myers	Jeffery Tucker	

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Walt Baker, Faye Bell, John Whitehead, Leah Ann Lamb, Carl Adams, Kari Lundeen, Beth Wondimu, John Mackey, Emily Cantón, David Snyder, Chris Bittner, Jeff Ostermiller, Toby Hooker and Judy Etherington

OTHERS PRESENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization Representing</u>
Jim Olson	HDR Engineering
Lynn deFreitas	Friends of GSL
Joro Walker	Living Rivers
Paul McConkie	Attorney General's Office
Dan Hall	DWQ
Judy Fehys	Salt Lake Tribune
Karen Nichols	HDR Engineering
Amy O'Donoghue	Deseret News
Chris Hogle	US Oil Sands, Inc
Ben Machlus	US Oil Sands, Inc
Kimberlee McEwan	Attorney General's Office
Carl Adams	DWQ
Jeff Ostermiller	DWQ
Jason Gipson	US Army Corps of Engineers

Chair Doughty called the Board meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and invited the members of the audience to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2012 MEETING

Motion: **It was moved by Mr. Myers and seconded by Mr. Rowley to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2012. The motion was approved. With Ms. Frey and Mayor Snarr abstaining.**

Executive Secretary's Report: Mr. Baker told the Board that on Wednesday Aug. 29th there was a report of an oil spill at the Holly Frontier Refinery located in Woods Cross. Due to a fracture in a storage tank just east of the refinery, oil sprayed about a mile to the southeast in an initial 40 foot arc. The oil was very heavy and need to be maintained at 300 degrees to flow. Water got into the tank and turned to steam, causing increased pressure which blew out storage tank rivets and dispersed approximately 8,400 gallons of oil in the surrounding area, impacting area businesses, homes and residents. The spray coated lawns, cars, sidewalks and anything else in its path with oily material, which is classified as non-hazardous under federal environmental rules. The refinery provided cleanup crews to assist with all reported problems or impacts. Impacts on nearby surface waters were minimal.

WQ staff has been reworking the onsite system (R317-4) rules for two years. The Legislative Administrative Rules Review Committee asked for an update on this rule. Staff is conducting meetings with a broader stakeholder group before the proposed rule will be presented to the Board.

A meeting has been scheduled in October with governmental agencies involved with the investigation of *e-coli* contamination in the North Fork of the Virgin River near Zions National Park. Data indicate that the source of the problem is irrigation practices.

The terms of all members of the Water Quality Board will expire on February 28, 2013 and new appointments will become effective on March 1, 2013. Those current members of the Board that wish to apply for a position on the newly-constituted Board may do so by going to the "Boards and Commissions" web site and completing the application. The number of board members will be reduced from 12 to 9. The Department Director, Amanda Smith, will submit her recommendations for WQB appointments to the Governor's office by the end of December.

Process Discussion with the Attorney General's Office on the ALJ's Recommendation on the PR Springs Appeal—Ms. McEwan from the Attorney General's office addressed the Water Quality Board and outlined the procedure which will be followed in the matter of PR Spring Tar Sands Project, Ground Water Discharge Permit-By-Rule, No. WQ PR-11-001. When a matter is appealed to the Board, it is first referred to an administrative law judge to hold an adjudicative proceeding and then to prepare a recommended decision and order for consideration by the Board. The Board has the option of approving, approving with modification, disapproving the *Memorandum and Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommended Order*, or returning the proposed order to the administrative law judge for further actions. The adjudicative proceeding will be held on Wednesday October 24, 2012 in the MASOB Building, located at 195 North 1950 West, Room 1015 at 9:30 a.m.

RULEMAKING

Rulemaking on Jordan River TMDL – Phase 1 into R317-1-7 – Mr. Adams presented a request to adopt the Jordan River – Phase 1 TMDL by reference into administrative rule (R317-1-7). The proposed rule was published in the Utah State Bulletin August 1, 2012 and the comment period closed August 31, 2012. No comments were received on the proposed rule change.

Motion: **It was moved by Mr. Myers to adopt changes to the Jordan River TMDL – Phase 1 into R317-1-7. The motion was seconded by Ms. Frey and was unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting – October 24, 2012, 9:30 a.m.
DEQ Building Board Room #1015
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116**

Paula Doughty, Chair
Utah Water Quality Board

**Loan Funds
Financial Projections**

WIB

	2nd Qtr FY 2013 Oct - Dec 2012	3rd Qtr FY 2013 Jan - Mar 2013	4th Qtr FY 2013 Apr - June 2013	1st Qtr FY 2014 July - Sept 2013	2nd Qtr FY 2014 Oct - Dec 2013	3rd Qtr FY 2014 Jan - Mar 2014
STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (SRF)						
Funds Available						
SRF - 1st Round (LOC) 2012 Cap Grant	\$ 5,213,364	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Match	\$ 1,086,156	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SRF - 2nd Round	\$ 44,120,407	\$ 30,010,006	\$ 36,233,872	\$ 38,047,351	\$ 40,129,453	\$ 41,676,670
Interest Earnings at 0.6%	\$ 68,056	\$ 46,290	\$ 55,891	\$ 58,688	\$ 61,900	\$ 64,286
Loan Repayments	\$ 886,023	\$ 6,177,576	\$ 3,039,588	\$ 2,023,414	\$ 1,485,318	\$ 5,968,593
<i>Total Funds Available</i>	\$ 51,374,006	\$ 36,233,872	\$ 39,329,351	\$ 40,129,453	\$ 41,676,670	\$ 47,709,550
Project Obligations						
Elwood Town - Principal Forgiveness	\$ (950,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Granger-Hunter Improvement District	\$ (4,452,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Kearns Improvement District 2011	\$ (5,905,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Santaquin City	\$ (5,234,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
South Valley WRF - NonPoint Source	\$ (305,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loan Authorizations						
Coalville	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,282,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Echo Sewer SSD	\$ (218,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Francis City	\$ (4,300,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Projects in Planning						
Long Valley Town	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Obligations</i>	\$ (21,364,000)	\$ -	\$ (1,282,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SRF Unobligated Funds	\$ 30,010,006	\$ 36,233,872	\$ 38,047,351	\$ 40,129,453	\$ 41,676,670	\$ 47,709,550

UTAH WASTEWATER LOAN FUND (UWLF)

Funds Available						
UWLF	\$ 9,110,623	\$ 4,956,497	\$ 6,098,607	\$ 7,281,033	\$ 8,262,958	\$ 9,199,869
Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 704,980	\$ 704,980	\$ 704,982	\$ 896,875	\$ 896,875	\$ 896,875
Loan Repayments	\$ 241,000	\$ 764,080	\$ 804,393	\$ 412,000	\$ 366,986	\$ 773,080
<i>Total Funds Available</i>	\$ 10,056,603	\$ 6,425,557	\$ 7,607,983	\$ 8,589,908	\$ 9,526,819	\$ 10,869,824
General Obligations						
State Match Transfer	\$ (1,086,156)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DWQ Administrative Expenses (TMDL, etc.)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)
Project Obligations						
Murray City	\$ (1,596,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loan Authorizations						
Ephraim City	\$ (2,091,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Projects in Planning						
None at this time	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Obligations</i>	\$ (5,100,106)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)	\$ (326,950)
UWLF Unobligated Funds	\$ 4,956,497	\$ 6,098,607	\$ 7,281,033	\$ 8,262,958	\$ 9,199,869	\$ 10,542,874

2.1

*Projects being presented to the WQB

Date Printed: 10/11/2012

WIB
WQB

Hardship Grant Funds Financial Projections

	2nd Qtr FY 2013	3rd Qtr FY 2013	4th Qtr FY 2013	1st Qtr FY 2014	2nd Qtr FY 2014	3rd Qtr FY 2014
HARDSHIP GRANT FUNDS (HGF)	Oct - Dec 2012	Jan - Mar 2013	Apr - June 2013	July - Sept 2013	Oct - Dec 2013	Jan - Mar 2014
Funds Available						
Beginning Balance	\$ -	\$ 3,680,323	\$ 4,381,936	\$ 3,420,758	\$ 2,983,641	\$ 3,065,256
Federal HGF Beginning Balance	\$ 9,928,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State HGF Beginning Balance	\$ 118,331	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Earnings at 0.6%	\$ 15,496	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UWLP Interest Earnings at 0.6%	\$ 14,053	\$ 7,645	\$ 9,407	\$ 11,231	\$ 12,746	\$ 14,191
Hardship Grant Assessments	\$ -	\$ 326,983	\$ 1,052,481	\$ 478,337	\$ -	\$ 413,892
Interest Payments	\$ 3,185	\$ 80,984	\$ 269,934	\$ 73,315	\$ 68,870	\$ 71,943
Hardship Advance Repayments	\$ -	\$ 1,094,000	\$ 1,187,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Funds Available</i>	\$ 10,079,084	\$ 5,189,936	\$ 6,900,758	\$ 3,983,641	\$ 3,065,256	\$ 3,565,282
Project Obligations						
Blanding City - Planning Adv.	\$ (39,900)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Coalville - Planning Adv.	\$ (25,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Coalville - Construction Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,480,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Duchesne County - Hancock Cove	\$ (22,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Eagle Mountain - Planning Advance	\$ (18,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Echo Sewer SSD - Construction Grant	\$ (251,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ephraim - Planning Adv.	\$ (30,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Eureka City - Planning Adv.	\$ (61,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Francis City - Construction Grant	\$ -	\$ (808,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Francis City - Design Advance	\$ (1,094,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
*Green River - Planning Adv.	\$ (30,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Heber Valley - Planning Adv.	\$ (68,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Projects in Planning						
None at this time	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-Point Source Obligations						
DEQ - Economic Study of Nutrient Removal	\$ (88,401)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DEQ - Nutrient Reduction Benefit Study	\$ (5,053)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DEQ - Willard Spur Study	\$ (1,092,464)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Division of Wildlife Resources - Strawberry	\$ (19,853)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Division of Wildlife Resources - Sevier River	\$ (26,349)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Snyderville Basin	\$ (14,896)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Twelve Mile Canyon	\$ (266,992)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UACD	\$ (82,669)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UDAF	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utah Farm Bureau	\$ (48,930)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2009 - Remaining Payments	\$ (88,485)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2010 - Remaining Payments	\$ (212,548)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2011 - Remaining Payments	\$ (174,788)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2012 - Remaining Payments	\$ (665,436)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2013 Allocation	\$ (972,996)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY 2014 Allocation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Non-Point Source Projects in Planning						
None at this time	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Obligations</i>	\$ (6,398,761)	\$ (808,000)	\$ (3,480,000)	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -
HGF Unobligated Funds	\$ 3,680,323	\$ 4,381,936	\$ 3,420,758	\$ 2,983,641	\$ 3,065,256	\$ 3,565,282

2.2

*Projects being presented to the WQB

Date Printed: 10/11/2012



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Department of
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Quality Board

THROUGH: Walter L. Baker, P.E., Director
Division of Water Quality

FROM: Johnathan P. Cook, P.E.

DATE: October 10, 2012

SUBJECT: City of Green River Request to Convert \$23,000 Advance to a \$30,000 Grant

At the February 23, 2011 Water Quality Board meeting, the City of Green River requested and received a \$23,000 Planning Advance to prepare a design study which would determine the best method of disinfecting the effluent for their lagoon's discharge. During the process of this study, it was determined that the required scope of the project was much larger and that the design and construction of a land application system would be required in order to meet Green River City's current and future discharge requirements.

As a result of this change in condition, the construction costs of the project increased to an estimated \$680,000. Additionally, because of a rate study performed by Green River City in coordination with the Rural Water Association, the City's sewer rate increased during this time period from \$22.20 to \$32.25 per month per ERU. This put the City's sewer bill well above what is considered to be the affordable limit of \$26.48 based on 1.4% MAGI that is used by the Water Quality Board uses to determine grant eligibility.

At the April 2012 Water Quality Board meeting, the Board requested that the City seek funds from the Community Impact Board (CIB) as DWQ's grant funds were limited. It should also be noted that at the time of the April 2012 Water Quality Board meeting, the City's consulting engineer was projecting that the planning costs were going to increase above the \$23,000 level because of the change in project scope. In the April 2012 report to the Board, the new planning cost was estimated at \$30,000.

The City of Green River made their request to the CIB at their September 6, 2012 and October 4, 2012 meetings. At the October, 4, 2012 meeting, CIB authorized a \$650,000 construction grant to the City of Green River. CIB's authorization explicitly did not cover the \$30,000 in planning costs.

2.3

Green River Feasibility Report - Authorization
April 18, 2012
Page 2

The City is now requesting that the Water Quality Board convert the \$23,000 Planning Advance authorized at the February 23, 2011 meeting to a \$30,000 Planning Grant as these are the costs that CIB did not cover with their authorization.

Application Number: _____

Date Received: November 7, 2011

Date to be presented to the WQB: April 18, 2012

**WATER QUALITY BOARD
FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT
AUTHORIZATION**

APPLICANT: City of Green River
P.O. Box 620
460 East Main Street
Green River, Utah 84525

PRESIDING OFFICIAL: Mayor Pat Brady

TREASURER/RECORDER: Loni Meadows, Treasurer
Conae Black, City Recorder

CONSULTING ENGINEER: Craig Johansen
Johansen & Tuttle Engineering
P.O. Box 487
90 South 100 East
Castle Dale, UT 84513
Telephone: (435) 381-2523

BOND COUNSEL: Richard Chamberlin
Chamberlin Associates
225 North 100 East
Richfield, UT 84701
(435) 896-4461

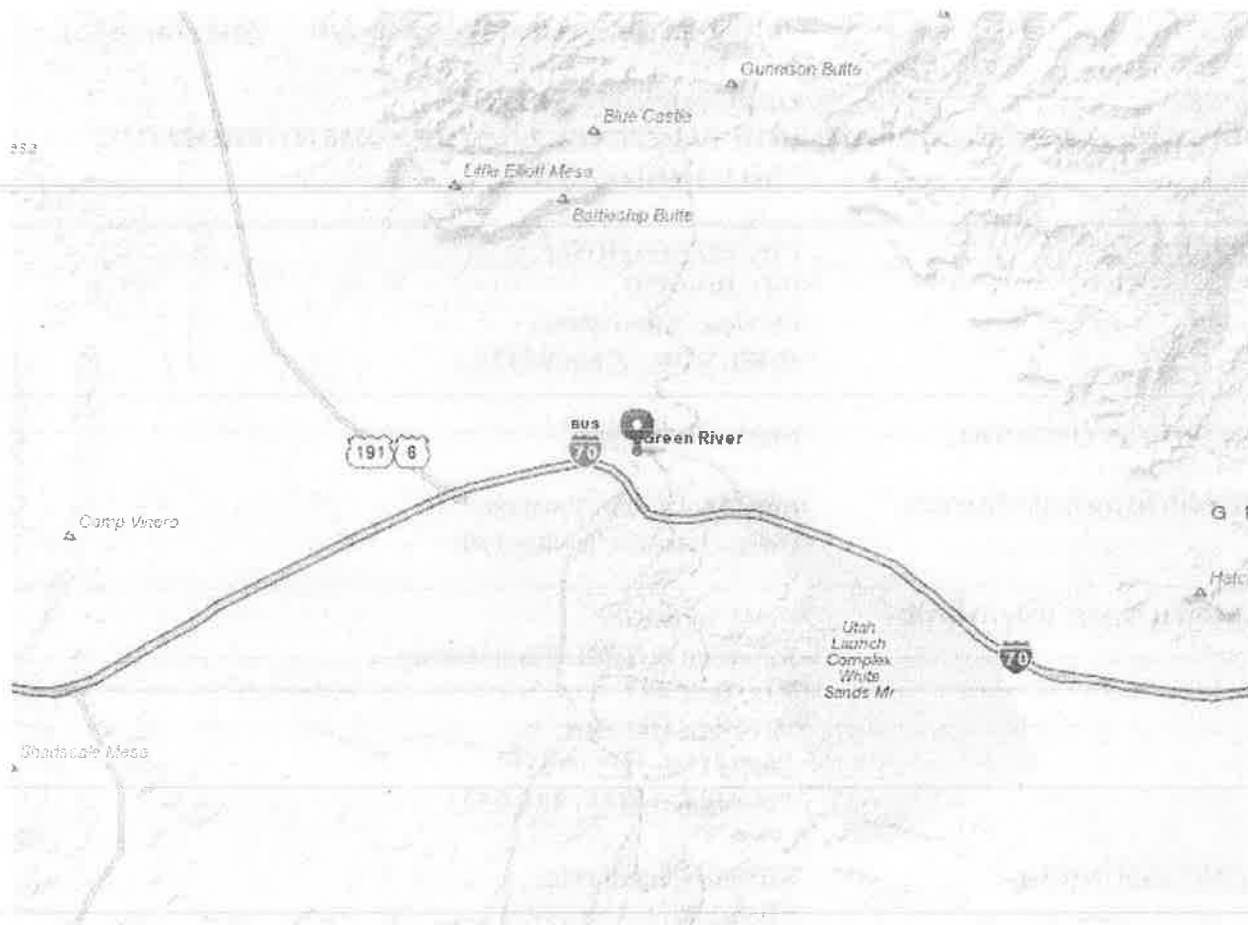
APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

The City of Green River is requesting financial assistance in the amount of a \$680,000 Hardship Grant for the construction of its 2010 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project.

APPLICANT'S LOCATION:

The City of Green River is located on the border of Emery and Grand Counties, on the banks of the Green River, south of the Tavaputs Plateau, and just to the north of Interstate 70.

MAP OF APPLICANT'S LOCATION



BACKGROUND:

The current population is estimated to be approximately 973 persons, comprising approximately 264 connections. Additionally, there are an additional 62 commercial connections. These commercial connections are primarily composed of restaurants and hotels, and account for an additional 357 Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs). This makes for a total of 621 ERUs. Current land use within the Green River City boundaries is residential, agricultural, and commercial. GOPB projects the growth rate to average at approximately 0.55% a year, with periods of population decline.

The existing sewer system in Green River pipes the entire wastewater flow from both sides of the Green River to a four cell total containment lagoon on the south side of the City. Collection on the west side of the river is primarily through gravity pipes. Collection on the east side of the river is gravity fed to a pressure pipe which crosses the river.

The City's lagoons are currently at capacity for hydraulic loading when operating as total containment. When the lagoons discharge, the discharge does not always meet the limit for salinity discharges into the Colorado River. In 2009, Green River applied for ARRA (Stimulus) funds to expand the City's lagoon so it could continue to operate as total containment. Because of the cost of the expansion, staff directed the City to work on getting its discharge permit modified so that the project could be scaled back to a disinfection system. The permit was modified in 2009. Since then, staff has worked with the City on various funding and study options for upgrading the system.

The results of this study have shown that it is not enough to simply provide a means for the City to discharge into the Green River. Because of the increase of salinity across the lagoon system, the City can only discharge approximately 50% of its total required discharge and still remain within the Colorado River Salinity Standard of 366 tons of TDS per year. The other 50% of the total required discharge must be disposed of by other means.

PROJECT NEED:

Green River has always tried to operate their lagoons as total containment. Recently they have had to begin discharging annually. Unfortunately, this discharge does not always meet the Colorado River Salinity Standard discharge limit of 366 tons of TDS per year. Without funding, Green River will have difficulty always being in compliance.

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED:

The consulting engineers evaluated the following treatment alternatives for Green River:

1. No action.
2. Total Discharge into the Green River
3. Total Land Application
4. Expansion of the Total Containment Lagoons
5. Combination of some Discharge into the Green River and some Land Application

The most cost-effective feasible alternative is a combination of some winter discharge into the Green River and summer disposal through land application.

POSITION ON PROJECT PRIORITY LIST:

This project is ranked 2nd of 13 projects on the Wastewater Treatment Project Priority List. Green River received almost as high a score as Coalville, the top ranked project.

POPULATION GROWTH:

Population and Connection Projections		
Year	Residents	Total Sewer ERUs (based on current ratio)
2020	1,152	740
2030	1,194	770
2040	1,171	750
2050	1,212	780

(Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget 2008 estimates.)

NOTE: The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) has projected a period of population contraction between 2030 and 2040. It should be noted that this is not unusual for Green River. The City has just recently experienced one of these periods of contraction between when the City first came before the Board in April 2009 and today.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND DEMONSTRATION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT:

Green River needs to have public meetings regarding the project.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:

Apply to WQB for Funding:	<i>November 7, 2011</i>
WQB Introduction	February 22, 2012
Public Meeting	March 2012
WQB Funding Authorization:	April 18, 2012
Final Public Hearing	April 2012
Facility Plan Approval:	July 2012
Issue Construction Permit	September 2012
Bid Opening	February 2013
Complete Construction	June 2013

APPLICANT'S CURRENT USER CHARGE:

There are currently 264 residential and 62 commercial connections to the system. Based upon water usage, the 62 commercial connections equal approximately 357 ERUs, for a total of 621 ERUs. The current user charge rate is:

Base Rate:	\$32.25 per month for the first 9,000 gallons of water use per month
Surcharge:	\$3.75 per additional 1,000 gallons for water use.

The average residential sewer rate is approximately \$33.90 per month. The average commercial sewer rate is \$34.60 per ERU per month. Residential fees comprises 43% of sewer revenues. Commercial fees comprise 57% of sewer revenues.

The current sewer fee is based upon a recent rate study the City performed with the help of the Rural Water Association that determined that general revenue funds were subsidizing both the sewer and water utilities. The 2009 Median Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) for Green River is \$23,842. A sewer bill of \$32.25 per month equates to 1.62% of the MAGI for Green River, exceeding the Water Quality Board "affordability" guideline of 1.4% MAGI.

COST SHARING:

Green River is a community with a low MAGI and is known to experience periods of negative growth with contractions in the MAGI. The City's current sewer rate is 1.62% of its MAGI, well above the Water Quality Board's loan affordability policy of 1.4%.

Green River is currently our highest priority project without a Water Quality Board funding authorization. Green River is requesting a hardship grant for the full construction cost.

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cost Sharing</u>	<u>Percent of Project</u>
WQB Hardship Grant	\$ 680,000	100%

COST ESTIMATE:

Planning	\$ 30,000
Construction	\$ 410,000
30% Contingency	\$ 120,000
Construction Management	\$ 80,000
Land Purchase	\$ 40,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 680,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that Green River pursue funding first with the Community Impact Board due to the near depletion of Water Quality Board grant funds.

Politics

Thursday, September 27, 2012 | Last Updated: 01:01 am

Salt Lake City 57° A Few Clouds | Traffic

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Decision on Eastern Utah's tar sands mine expected next month

Water board » Members to consider final approval for Book Cliffs mine.

By JUDY FAHYS | The Salt Lake Tribune

First Published Sep 26 2012 12:26 pm • Last Updated Sep 26 2012 03:03 pm

Plans for a Book Cliffs tar sands mine — the nation's first fuel-producing one — will be up for final approval next month before the state Water Quality Board.

Board members set a brief hearing on the PR Springs project for their next meeting, Oct. 24, when they will hear from the company behind the project, Alberta-based U.S. Oil Sands, and the group that appealed the initial project approval by Water Quality Division Director Walt Baker, Moab-based Living Rivers.

Baker signed off on the proposal last year without requiring a groundwater-pollution permit. His decision was partly based on the contention there is no groundwater to pollute in the project site, around 213 acres in the arid high country between Vernal and Moab.

Join the Discussion

» Post a Comment

And, while Living Rivers argued solvents used in the mining process would release cancer-causing

petrochemicals by making the natural tars more mobile, US Oil Sands insisted its citrus-based solvent won't harm the environment.

Judge Sandra Allen last month sided with Baker; her decision hinged on the ground water question.

Located within an area of about 50 square miles leased by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, the mine is expected to produce as much as 2,000 barrels of oil a day. The company hopes to be producing oil by the end of next year.

Assistant Attorney General Kimberlee McEwan, the water board's attorney, advised members to keep an open mind about the case.

"You are looking at all the evidence and how it was applied," she said of the decision the panel faces next month.

The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining is poised to approve the project, but it is waiting to see how the water board handles the case before it makes its own final decision. In addition, if the water board upholds the judge's order, the approval is likely to go before the state Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile, the trust lands agency issued a closure order earlier this month to deter protesters and others from trespassing on its mining and drilling sites. The order came after reports that protesters had been visiting the PR Springs site and other active mining projects on SITLA lands.

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Deseret News

E. Coli contamination a hidden danger in the Virgin River

E. Coli contamination is 'off the chart' in Zion National park's Narrows

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News
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Tourists visit the Temple of Sinawava area of Zion National Park on April 19, 2005. (Ravell Call, Deseret News archives)

ZION NATIONAL PARK — On any given day during the height of the summer visitor season, thousands of people wade and play in the Virgin River at the Narrows in Utah's most popular national park.

Hardy adventurers, too, seek the "other worldly" experience by making the complete 16-mile trek through the Narrows, wading through the rushing water and picking their way over boulders and rocks to gaze at the spectacular sandstone scenery.

"We think a national park where people play in the water is pretty darn important," said Dave Sharrow, hydrologist for Zion National Park.

But there's a threat here, and it has nothing to do with falling rocks or narrow terrain. Levels of E. coli contamination in the river are "off the chart" and far exceed state water quality standards.

That's prompted park officials to issue warnings along with permits to backcountry hikers to avoid contact with the water as much as possible.

"We are concerned that levels of E. coli bacteria that we are finding in the river exceed the state standard for swimming-type recreation," Sharrow said. "And when that happens, the risk of coming down with a disease associated with playing in that water is too high. We would like to protect visitors and get the water cleaned up to the point where we meet the standard."

Walt Baker, director of the Utah Division of Water Quality, said three years of testing from 800 water samples detail levels of E. coli contamination that are "significant and a concern," with rolling averages showing high levels 90 percent of the time.

Amy Dickey, environmental scientist with the state Division of Water Quality, said she's not aware of any reports of people getting sick from the contamination, but Environmental Protection Agency standards say with levels that high, eight out of every 1,000 are at risk.

"Sometimes it won't show up for several days," Dickey said, "and people by then may write it off as the flu."



Zion National Park officials to issue warnings along with permits to backcountry hikers to avoid contact with the water as much as possible. (Ravell Call, Deseret News archives)

The culprit is feces — from wildlife, people and from cattle that graze upstream on Bureau of Land Management property and private lands.

The BLM, Division of Water Quality and the Utah Farm Bureau all play a role in solving the problem and will meet next week in Cedar City to search for solutions.

"It is a puzzle. We've put a lot of time and resources into studying the problem," Dickey said.

"I get asked a lot of times, 'Who cares? It is out in the middle of nowhere.' But it is our job to take a closer look, and it is a problem when it is upstream of a national park, where thousands of people are in the water recreating and more who spend the night in the Narrows," she said.

At the bottom end of the Narrows at the riverside walk, there is no limitation on the number of people who can jump in the water, Sharrow said.

"We have documented 2,000 a day, and that was before we had our shuttle buses and parking was limited," he said. "It is probably significantly higher than that. There are a lot of people playing in the water."

The park does limit the number of participants who make the daylong or overnight trek all the way through the Narrows, Sharrow said, curtailing the number of permits issued at any given time.

Still, the impacts go on all season long, with an estimated 5,000 people who go through the Narrows each year.

Upstream, the BLM issues grazing leases to ranchers on land northeast of the park, and private land is also home to cattle.

Sharrow said flood irrigation practices that ultimately wash manure into the river are suspected to be at the root of the contamination, but he said the area is rife with wildlife and, downstream, with people.

"There's a whole lot of animals out there pooping," he said.

To help eliminate one source of the problem, a pit toilet was installed in the summer of 2011 at the trailhead of the Narrows, Dickey said, on BLM land where people start their trek into the park.

"There was fecal matter and toilet paper behind every shrub, bush and tree at the spot," she said, with people relieving themselves prior to reaching the river. "We are happy to say the toilet has been well used."

Tyce Palmer, resource coordinator for the southwest area of the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, has been working with local land owners and state and federal agencies to help mitigate the contamination problem.

"It's a complex watershed, in a pretty steep and narrow remote area," he said. "There might be some cows in there in places where we can do better management on."

Palmer said he was in the area recently and found a cabin with an outhouse that had been erected right over an irrigation ditch, its contents eventually flowing to the river.

"There's definitely a lot of issues up there, not just the old cow," he said.

Dickey said the E. coli levels have been so high they exceed what the state can test for, which earned the river a spot on its watch list for human interaction.

The good news, both Dickey and Sharrow said, is that after Deep Creek meets up with the Virgin River, the contamination is diluted, but some E. coli persists at the park's Temple of the Sinawava.

Both water watchers know the fix won't be an easy one because of the diverse group of interests involved. Sharrow said he's not in the business of telling cattle ranchers how to manage their animals, but he wants to fix the problem.

"It is a remote area. It is not an ideal place to change irrigation practices. You don't have electricity," he said. "You don't have someone living there being able to run and operate the system all the time. It is going to take some time and some creativity to come up with a solution."

Email: amyjoi@desnews.com Twitter: amyjoi6

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Deseret News

Potential groundwater contamination at issue in tar sands mine

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News
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Canyons above Sunnyside and East Carbon City provide access to the West Tavaputs Plateau, Oct. 3, 2004. (Ray Boren, Deseret News)

SALT LAKE CITY — Groundwater contamination — threatened, real or imaginary — lies at the heart of a contentious dispute involving what could be the nation's first large-scale oil sands mining operation in Uintah and Grand counties.

Members of Utah's Water Quality Board will hear arguments Oct. 24 at their next regular meeting and decide if they will uphold an administrative law judge's opinion on the matter, agree with it but make modifications, or reject it outright.

At issue is the state Division of Water Quality's decision to issue a permit to U.S. Oil Sands for its PR Spring Mine after determining it will have minimal impact to potential groundwater in the area. The reasoning was based on evidence that shows a lack of groundwater resources in the project area, according to the division, as well as the manner of the mine's operation, such as the exclusion of tailings ponds. The division's decision was appealed and in late August, an administrative law judge issued an order upholding the permit.

Kimberlee McEwan, with the Utah Attorney General's Office, advised the board Wednesday that ultimately members will act as judges in the case, weighing the information already on record as well as arguments presented by U.S. Oil Sands, the Utah Attorney General's Office and the protester of the decision, Living Rivers.

The environmental group contends the division acted unlawfully by issuing the permit and argue that the mine's impacts to groundwater will have negative impacts to the Tavaputs Plateau and adjacent area.

U.S. Oil Sands has 32,005 acres under lease in the Uintah Basin area for the potential extraction of bitumen, a thick, tar-like substance that can be refined into oil. An initial site of 213 acres is planned for active mining operations that could begin by late next year.

Living Rivers contends the material used in the extraction process poses toxic hazards and should not be released into the environment. U.S. Oil Sands counters that the material is a bio-solvent derived from citrus oil.

E-mail: amyjoi@desnews.com

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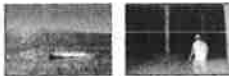
New three million gallon water tank nears completion

Mary Bernard, Vernal Express



MARY BERNARD, VERNAL EXPRESS

The Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District three million gallon culinary water tank under construction below Ashley Springs north of Vernal. Once finished, the tank will be buried and covered with soil and vegetation.



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**Ashley Regional
MEDICAL CENTER**

A new three million gallon water storage tank at the mouth of Ashley Gorge is nearing completion after almost two years in construction.

It's a \$2.94 million project of the Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District with funding from the Permanent Community Impact Board as well as the district.

"75 percent of the funding is a loan and 25 percent is grant," said Dave Hatch, district manager.

The facility will provide the pressure a growing community needs and also, "make it easier to treat the water away from the treatment plant and still keep up with the water supply," he says.

Supply is crucial as the "flow out of the plant particularly in the summer is upwards of 6 to 7 million gallons a day," Hatch adds.

The new tank will augment the existing capability of the district to treat 8 million gallons of water every day, according to Craig Nebeker, project engineer with Engineering Services Inc. of Vernal.

"Each residential hookup uses about 400 gallons per person per day," he said, adding that number is multiplied by the number of people in the community.

Three million gallons requires a whopping big storage facility. The tank's interior diameter measures 167 feet and it's 20 feet deep, according to Nebeker.

It needed more than 2,000 yards of concrete to construct and will take 24 hours to fill with water.

Nebeker did the design for the site and designed the 24-inch diameter (inlet) pipeline that leads from the Ashley treatment plant at the mouth of the gorge to the tank.

Having said all that, it's the construction of the tank that is truly remarkable.

Build, Inc., out of Salt Lake City constructed the tank of post tensioned concrete.

"There's no rebar in the construction, it uses cables of a half inch diameter in poured concrete," explains Tom Jessup, Build, Inc., superintendent.

Once the concrete undergoes an initial set the cables are tightened forcing the concrete into compression.

"The reason that this form of construction is so wonderful is because the post tension building pulls the cracks out of the concrete," Jessup explains. "It'll never crack."

The floor, walls and roof are tensioned he says, pointing out that the roof is supported by 52 identical columns inside of the tanks Jessup and his cohort Boyd Otteson, Build's superintendent explain that the post tensioned concrete design is the creation of VSL out of Denver, which is a company that specializes in its application.

"This is one of the first (PTC application) for water tank use in Utah," Otteson says.

The tanks location is on Bureau of Land Management land below the mouth of the gorge. An environmental assessment was completed for the locality in 2009 with construction starting in 2011.

Once completed the top of the tank will be covered with two feet of dirt on top and replanted with the local vegetation.

Short of a fenced enclosure, surface vents and hidden portals a hiker won't see this massive structure.

Both Nebeker and Hatch commented that they were grateful for the help they received from county and BLM Vernal Field Office officials in navigating the compliance process.

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